

Distinguished Service Medals; the USUHS Distinguished Service and Meritorious Service Medals, the Secretary of the Department of Health Education and Welfare Distinguished Service Award, and two Founders Medals from the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States. Dr. Abdellah is renowned as an expert in health policies related to long-term care, mental retardation, the developmentally disabled, aging, hospice, and AIDS; her pioneering contributions have substantially and lastingly improved our Nation's health.

In 1993, the Congress directed the initiation of a demonstration program for the preparation of family nurse practitioners to meet the needs of the uniformed services. Of course, the individual who stepped forward to assist the USUHS President, James A. Zimble, M.D., Vice Admiral, Retired, was Dr. Abdellah. In the short time since its establishment, the USUHS Graduate School of Nursing has: recruited and retained a qualified faculty, successfully established curricula for two programs, identified accredited clinical practice sites and completed memoranda of understanding with 19 military treatment facilities, submitted self-studies and received full accreditation for the two GSN programs from three professional accrediting entities, received formal approval and permanent status on February 26, 1996, from Health Affairs, Office of the Secretary of Defense, initiated, implemented, and continuously reviewed the outcomes evaluation process for both academic programs, and has awarded 157 Masters of Science in Nursing Degrees to advanced practice nurse graduates through the Nurse Practitioner and Certified Registered Nurse Anesthesia Programs. All GSN graduates have passed their certification examinations, and 97 percent, of 152, of the GSN graduates remain on active duty.

One of the most successful and innovative programs between the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs is the Distance Learning Program established at the USUHS GSN. In 1999, the collaborative efforts of Dr. Abdellah with the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA, in the area of distance learning successfully demonstrated a cost-effective form of advanced education where nursing students can receive advanced training in critically-required specialty areas while maintaining their current positions at the VA medical centers. Twenty-six students, through a "virtual commencement exercise," graduated from the VA/DoD Distance Learning Program on May 18, 1999. The virtual graduation was broadcast from USUHS and linked with eight VA Medical Centers located across the United States, and all graduates were eligible to sit for the American Nurses Association Credentialing Examination for Adult Nurse Practitioners. This graduation marked the first virtual advanced-level graduation for either the VA or DoD. A

second class, with students located in ten VA Medical Centers, graduated in May of 2001, for a total of 60 distance learning graduates. A third class is ongoing. The experience gained by both the GSN and the VA will allow future projects in distance learning to benefit from the lessons learned and the technologies tested during the twenty-month program.

I believe that the recent grant of full accreditation by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission, NLNAC, sums up Dr. Abdellah's successful leadership at the USUHS GSN. The accrediting commission pointed out in its summary findings to the University that the mission and philosophy of the USUHS GSN is grounded in the University's mission and in the mission of the Uniformed Services. The GSN curriculum is designed to be specific to the unique mission of military service nurses: to serve in times of war and peace. The GSN students expressed a clear understanding that the program keeps them connected to their mission and prepares them to function immediately after completing the program. The GSN is successfully preparing unique advanced practice nurses to deliver care for the Uniformed Services during disaster relief and humanitarian interventions and, by doing so, ensures military readiness.

As my friend Dr. Abdellah reaches the conclusion of her second career of service to our Nation, I take this opportunity to say, without reservation, thank you for all that you have done and will continue to do for our great nation. You may be assured that the Congress, the United States Public Health Service, the Department of Defense, and the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences take great pride in all of your accomplishments. Thank you for another job well done and for your tremendous dedication and love for our country. ●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO BURMA—PM 85

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message

from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of the national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the Burma emergency is to continue beyond May 20, 2002, to the *Federal Register* for publication. The most recent notice continuing this emergency was published in the *Federal Register* on May 17, 2001.

The crisis between the United States and Burma, constituted by the actions and policies of the Government of Burma, including its policies of committing large-scale repression of the democratic opposition in Burma, that led to the declaration of a national emergency on May 20, 1997, has not been resolved. These policies are hostile to U.S. interests and pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency with respect to Burma and maintain in force the sanctions against Burma to respond to this threat.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 16, 2002.

PERIODIC REPORT ON THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO BURMA—PM 86

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report prepared by my Administration on the national emergency with respect to Burma that was declared in Executive Order 13047 of May 20, 1997.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 16, 2002.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 5:42 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House disagrees to the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3295) to establish a program to provide funds to States to replace